

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112940

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:SEWARD:JMP

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/ARN:DAKORN

AID/SA:RNOOTER

S/S-O: W.NEWLIN

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P 300046Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112940

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CROWN PRINCE HASSAN

SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE HASSAN'S VISIT

REF: STATE 110784

1. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN LEFT WASHINGTON MAY 25 AND IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AMMAN MAY 29. HE APPEARED VERY PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT WHICH HE SAID HE CONSIDERS "MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER." WE ARE POUCHING COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF CP'S ACTIVITIES WHILE IN US AND MEMCONS OF MAY 20 DISCUSSION WITH AMB. BROWN AND SOBER, MAY 24 MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY, AND RECORD OF MAY 23 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON JORDAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (CROWN PRINCE'S MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT ON MAY 23 WAS TETE-A-TETE.)

2. IBRD RELATIONSHIP: CROWN PRINCE HAD TWO BREAKFASTS WITH MCNAMARA OF WORLD BANK; MCNAMARA SAT IN ON MAY 23 MIDDLE EAST COMMISSION BREAKFAST HOSTED BY SENS. JAVITS AND KENNEDY AND AGAIN MET WITH CP ON MORNING OF MAY 24 AT WATERGATE. AS A RESULT OF THESE MEETINGS, CP SEEMS REASSURED ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MCNAMARA AND BELIEVES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 112940

IBRD IS PREPARED TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN JORDAN "IF THE

USG WILL SIGNAL SUPPORT FOR THIS CONCEPT." IN MAY 25
WRAP-UP MEETING WITH SOBER AND NOOTER, CP ELABORATED ON
IBRD CONNECTION: HE WOULD WELCOME BANK'S TAKING A LARGER

ROLE IN FORMULATING DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH JORDAN AND IN
IMPLEMENTING THEM. EXACT NATURE OF IBRD ROLE SOMEWHAT
UNCERTAIN, BUT WAS SOMETIMES DISCUSSED AS BEING SIMILAR
TO INDUS RIVER BASIN PLAN. THIS COULD MEAN THAT IBRD WOULD
BECOME AN AGENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS PAID IN BY
OTHER DONORS, ALTHOUGH GOJ HAS NOT YET MADE A FIRM DECISION
ON THIS POINT. PLAN WOULD BE FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT
OF JORDAN VALLEY, BUT COULD ALSO BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE
DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY. TO BE MEANINGFUL
IT WOULD, HOWEVER, EVENTUALLY HAVE TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION
OF TWO LARGE DAMS UPSTREAM FROM JORDAN VALLEY (I.E.
MUKHEIBA PROJECTS). MCNAMARA APPARENTLY LEFT CROWN PRINCE
WITH IMPRESSION THAT IBRD WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE ON A
CENTRAL ROLE IN SUCH PROGRAM AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN
TOUCH WITH SECRETARY UPON HIS RETURN TO ASSURE THAT U.S.
WOULD SUPPORT IBRD ROLE OF THIS KIND IN JORDAN. CP WAS
ALSO ENCOURAGED BY SENS. JAVITS AND KENNEDY TO PURSUE
THIS PROGRAM; ACCORDING TO CP, JAVITS MENTIONED POSSIBILITY
OF \$20-30 MILLION ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH A PROGRAM. CP
WOULD LIKE TO SEE USG INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM IN SEVERAL
WAYS: HE WOULD LIKE OUR MISSION IN AMMAN TO HAVE SOMEWHAT
LARGER TECHNICAL STAFF TO ASSIST IN PLANNING AND PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD LIKE US TO WORK WITH IBRD ON THESE
SUBJECTS. (CP INDICATED TO US THAT HE FEELS CONSIDERABLE
SENSITIVITY OVER POSSIBLE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL
IBRD ROLE AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF
EFFECT ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEES WHICH INHERENT IN PROPOSAL).
MCNAMARA TENTATIVELY PLANS TO VISIT JORDAN IN NOVEMBER
IF GOJ IS ABLE TO WORK UP SPECIFICS OF PROPOSAL FOR
GREATER IBRD ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT. NOOTER INDICATED A
WILLINGNESS TO COME OUT IN JULY TO ASSIST IN THIS PROJECT.
CP ALSO REPEATED INVITATION TO SOBER TO VISIT JORDAN.

3. OIL EXPLORATION: AS NOTED REFTTEL, CP WAS PLEASED
WITH RESULTS OF NATOMAS APPROACH ON WEST COAST. REPRESENTATIVES
OF SUN OIL AND TREND, A SMALL DENVER FIRM, HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 112940

ALSO CONTACTED PARTY AND ALL THREE COMPANIES PLAN TO HAVE
PERSONNEL IN JORDAN IN FIRST WEEK OF JUNE TO TAKE FIRST-HAND
LOOK AT OIL POSSIBILITIES. CP MENTIONED THIS AS ONE
PARTICULARLY SATISFYING ASPECT OF VISIT.

4. COPPER/BATTELLE STUDY: AFTER MUCH DELAY IT NOW
APPEARS THAT GOJ WILL ACCEPT BATTELLE PROPOSAL TO SURVEY
COPPER DEPOSITS. CP SPECIFICALLY ASKED ADMINISTRATOR

PARKER ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF AID FUNDS TO FINANCE SURVEY AND WAS ASSURED THEY WERE AVAILABLE. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION INVOLVED ACRIMONY WITHIN JORDANIAN DELEGATION, WITH CP FREQUENTLY REMARKING THAT HE WANTED

U.S. FIRMS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN JORDAN, NOT JUST APPEAR ON SCENE WHEN GOJ WAS ABOUT TO CLOSE A DEAL WITH OTHERS (I.E., FRENCH). IF GOJ GOES WITH BATTELLE (AND WE DO NOT CONSIDER DECISION IRREVOCABLE), IT WILL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO QUESTION OF WHAT FIRM OR COUNTRY EVENTUALLY MINES THE DEPOSITS. BATTELLE IS PLANNING TO SEND ROBERT FAULKNER TO AMMAN IN EARLY JUNE IN ATTEMPT TO CLOSE A DEAL. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD BATTELLE PROJECT. AT THIS POINT WE ARE ANXIOUS TO PIN DOWN GOJ ACCEPTANCE OF BATTELLE AND TO INTEREST U.S. FIRMS IN PROJECT. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT CP HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BATTELLE BUT WANTS A FEW WEEKS TO BACK AWAY GRACEFULLY FROM FRENCH. JACK FROST OF EXXON WILL BE IN AMMAN ON JUNE 8 FOR REVIEW OF COPPER SITUATION. CP ALSO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF GULF OIL- WHICH HAS A PROCESS FOR EXTRACTING URANIUM FROM PHOSPHATE ORE WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO GOJ.

5. COOPERATIVES: JORDAN WILL USE PERSONNEL FROM IESC TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING COOPERATIVES. CP WAS ALSO INTERESTED, IN MEETING WITH OPIC, TO LEARN OF THEIR EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD AND MAY ALSO DRAW ON OPIC RESOURCES.

6. MAY 23 ROUNDTABLE: CROWN PRINCE ELABORATED ON HIS DESIRES FOR A MORE COLLABORATIVE, PROGRAM-ORIENTED APPROACH TOWARD DEVELOPMENT. JORDAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN AID DEVELOPMENT LOANS, A WILLINGNESS TO VIEW A PROJECT AS AN INTEGRATED WHOLE. RATHER THAN PERMIT FUNDS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 112940

TO LIE IDLE WHILE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ARE IRONED OUT, E.G. IN AN IRRIGATION PROJECT, GOJ WOULD LIKE TO UTILIZE THESE MONIES ON RELATED PROJECT SUCH AS HOUSING IN VICINITY OF CANAL OR ROAD IMPROVEMENT. GOJ WOULD ALSO LIKE INCREASED US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING PROJECTS AND IN DOING PREFEASIBILITY STUDIES. IT WAS AGREED THAT LACK OF A MULTI-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENT WAS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT SINCE WE COULD ASSUME THE AVAILABILITY OF SOME FUNDING OVER SEVERAL YEARS. FUNDING IS NOT A PROBLEM UNTIL GOJ CAN PROPOSE MORE PROJECTS THAN WE CAN PAY FOR, AND WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED THIS POINT. US REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED THAT WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY LOCKED INTO A \$10 MILLION DL FIGURE FOR FY 75; IF GOJ CAN WORK UP MORE ATTRACTIVE PROJECTS WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE A SYMPATHETIC LOOK AT THEM. NOOTER TOLD THE CP HE WOULD BE AMENABLE TO A MAJOR DONORS

CONFERENCE IN JORDAN IN THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE USG WOULD LOOK FOR INCREASED DEVELOPMENT MONEY FOR JORDAN IN FY 75 IF THE GOJ CAN COME UP WITH ATTRACTIVE PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED. THE USG SHARES THE CP'S DESIRE TO GIVE INCREASING EMPHASIS TO DEVELOPMENT LOANS AS OPPOSED TO SA.

7. MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY: CP MET WITH ACTING SECRETARY RUSH FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES ON MAY 24. RUSH BRIEFED CROWN PRINCE ON SECRETARY'S MISSION TO ME, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HELPFUL ATTITUDE OF KING HUSSEIN AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS AND STRESSED USG IS MAKING ALL-OUT EFFORT FOR DISENGAGEMENT. CP EXPRESSED FEARS ABOUT AN UNRWA FINANCIAL CRISIS AND IMPACT ON JORDANIAN ECONOMY; HE ALSO NOTED THAT GOJ HAS NOT PREJUDGED QUESTION OF STATUS OF WEST BANK. CP NOTED JORDAN'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IS "ULTIMATELY ROSY" BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. CP AGREED WITH MR. RUSH'S REMARK THAT REAL BASIS FOR A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE A COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT UTILIZING RESOURCES OF AREA. MR. RUSH EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR JORDAN'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND NOTED PARTICULARLY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS PREVAILING BETWEEN USG AND JORDAN. BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISITS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE112940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SEWARD:JMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740135-0378
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974057/aaaaafjw.tel
Line Count: 191
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 110784
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROWN PRINCE HASSAN'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, JO, IBRD, (HASSAN, CROWN PRINCE)
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005